Rabbit and Skunk and Spooks

by CARLA STEVENS

Pictures by ROBERT KRAUS

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Printed in the U.S.A.

07

Skunk found Rabbit taking a nap.
"Wake up, Rabbit," he said.
"I've got a surprise for you."

Rabbit sat up.

"I made it for you all by myself," said Skunk.

"What is it?" asked Rabbit.

"It's your costume for Halloween," said Skunk.

"I don't need a costume," said Rabbit.

"Oh yes you do," said Skunk. "You need a costume for scaring people."

"I don't want to scare people," said Rabbit. "They might scare me back."

"Don't get up, Rabbit. I want to see how you look."

"What are you doing to me, Skunk?" asked Rabbit.

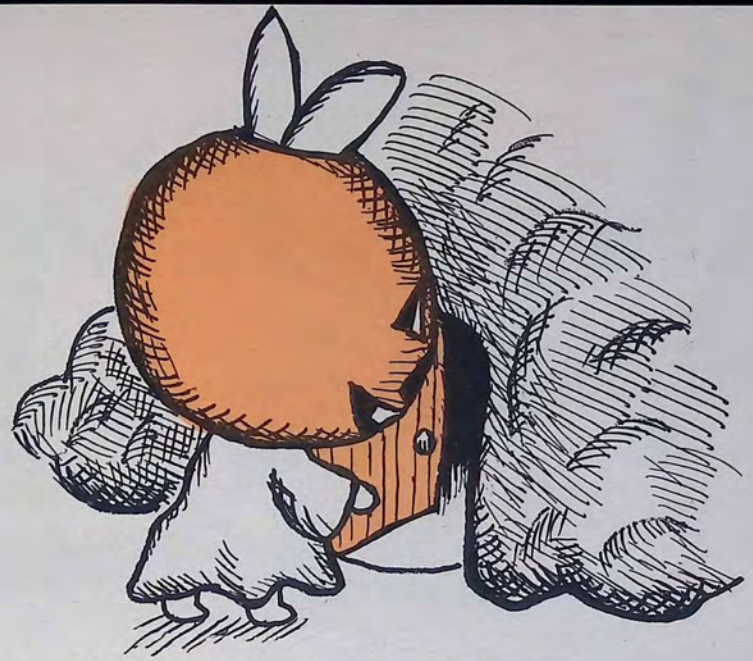
"Oh, Rabbit, you look very scary," said Skunk.

"I don't feel very scary," said Rabbit.

"You will tonight. Good-bye."
And Skunk went off down the road,
leaving Rabbit all alone.

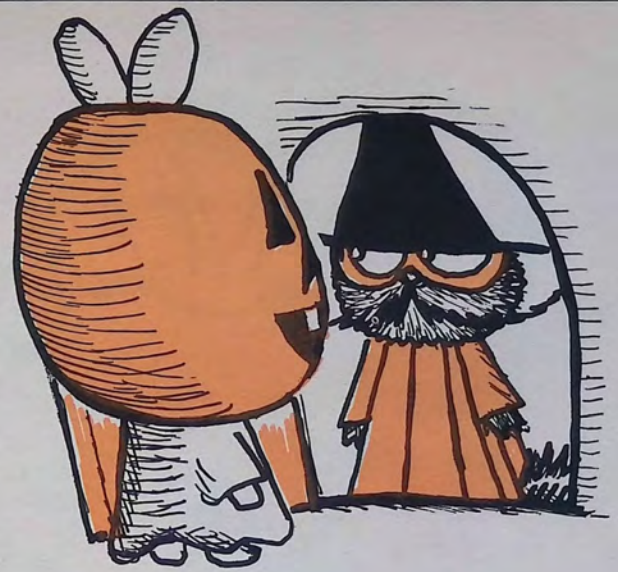
"Wait, Skunk. Help me get this off," called Rabbit.
"OOF . . . ow . . . ooch. Oh, I give up."

"I hope my friends will know that I am Rabbit,"
said Rabbit to himself as he walked home.



First, Rabbit tried to get in his back door.
"Umpf. . . ooch. Am I too big?" asked Rabbit.
"Oops. . . oof. Or is my back door too small?"

Then Rabbit tried his front door.
"Umpf . . . ooch. Oh, I'm home at last!" he said.
"Now for a little something to eat."



KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

Rabbit opened his front door.
"Hello, Skunk," he said.

"How do you know who I am?" asked Skunk.

"Your tail is peeking out," said Rabbit.

"I'm glad you have your costume on," said Skunk.

"I have it on because I can't get it off," said Rabbit.

"Are you ready, Rabbit?"

"Ready?" asked Rabbit. "Ready for what?"

"Are you ready to go out and scare people?" asked Skunk.

"Oh no. I don't want to scare people," said Rabbit.
"Besides, I haven't had my supper yet."

WHOOOOOOOOOOEEEEEEEEEE

"What was that?" asked Rabbit.

"What WAS that?" asked Skunk.

"Spooks," said Rabbit.

"Don't be silly, Rabbit.
There are no such things as spooks."

WHUMP
WHUMP
WHUMP

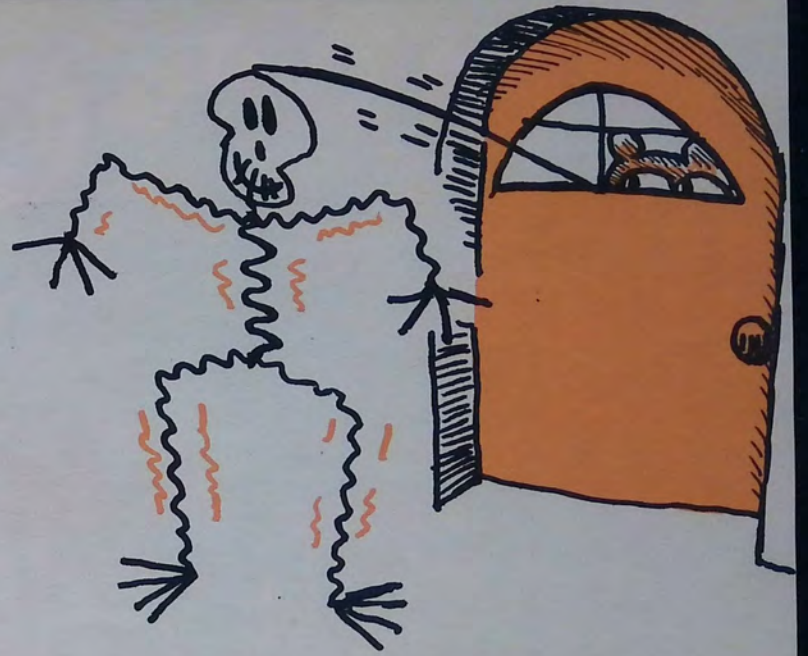
"It's spooks all right," said Rabbit.

"Look!" said Skunk. "A skeleton!"

"He looks hungry," whispered Rabbit.

"Give him a carrot, Rabbit," said Skunk.

"I don't think he likes carrots," said Rabbit.
"Besides, I need my carrots very badly."



WHOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

"Who turned out the lights?"

"Maybe it was the skeleton."

"Help!"

"Oops. Is that you, Skunk?"

"Ow, my tail!"

"Sorry."

SQUOOSH

"Oh dear. Guess what, Skunk. Wait, I'll turn on the light," said Rabbit.

"What happened to your costume, Rabbit?"

"You bumped me in the dark, Skunk," said Rabbit. "Thanks."

"You don't look very scary any more," said Skunk.

"That's all right," said Rabbit. "I don't feel very scary."

KNOCK

"Rabbit, I think someone is at the front door," said Skunk.

"Spooks," said Rabbit.

"Go on, Rabbit. Open the door."

"Stop pushing me, Skunk," whispered Rabbit.

"It's your door," said Skunk. "You have to open it."

Rabbit opened the door very slowly.

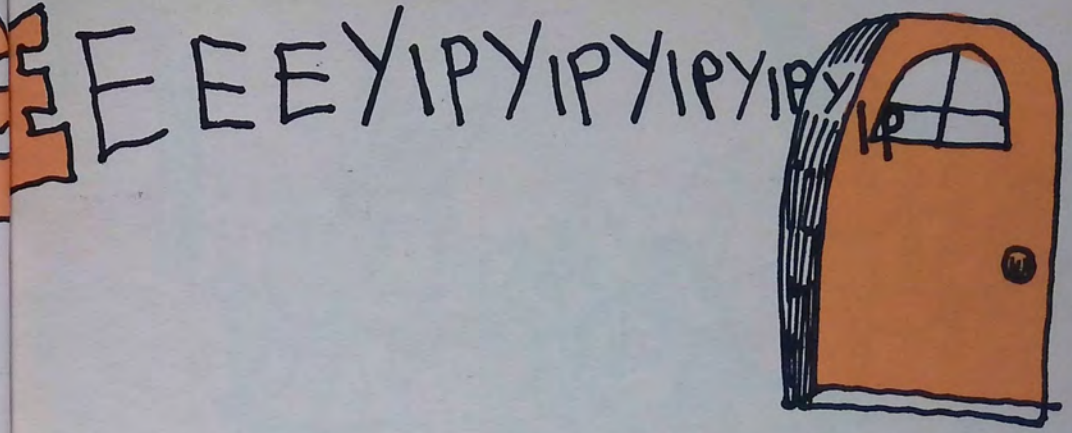
He peeked out.

No one was there.

"See? What did I tell you?" said Skunk.
"There are no spooks out there."

Rabbit closed the door.

EEEEEEE


EEEYIPYIPYIPYIPY

"Rabbit, I think someone is at the front door," said Skunk again.

"Where are you going, Skunk?" asked Rabbit.

"I have to go home right this minute. Good-bye."

"Wait for me, Skunk. I'm going with you," said Rabbit.

Skunk opened the back door. He peeked out.
"Hurry up, Rabbit," he whispered. "And don't make any noise."

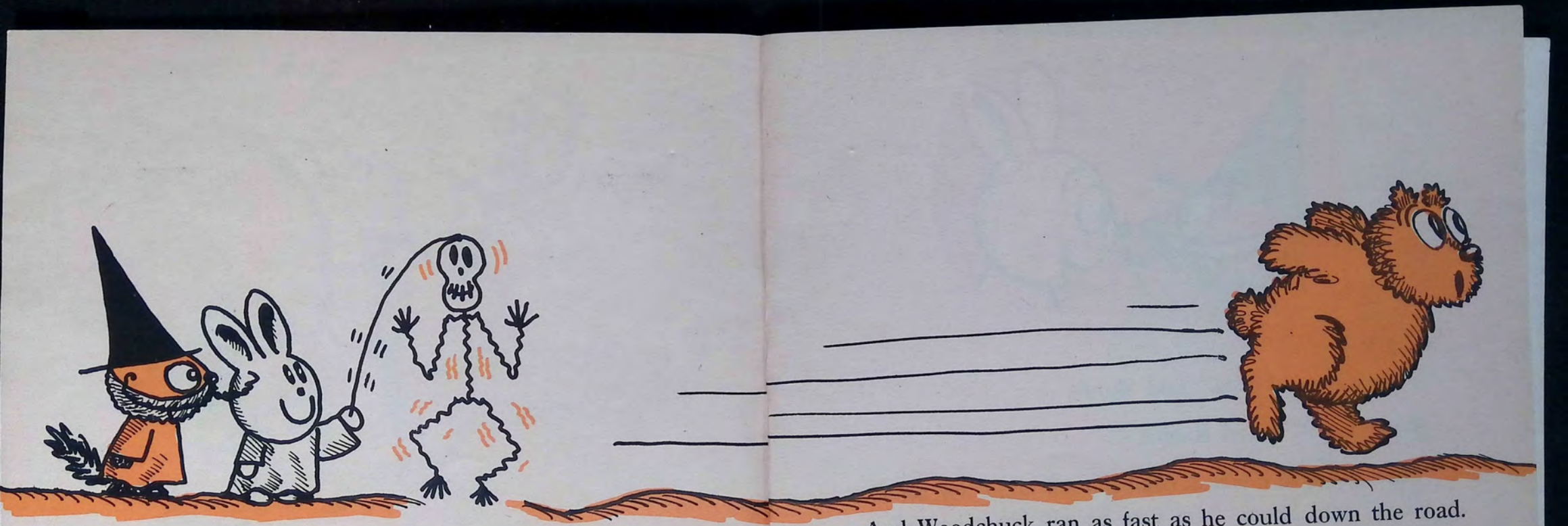
"I'm coming. Stop pulling me, Skunk," whispered Rabbit.

"Do you see what I see?" whispered Skunk.

"I see the end of a very big spook in my front door," whispered Rabbit.

"Here, Rabbit, take that stick," said Skunk.

"YEEOW!!!" yelled Woodchuck. "Spooks!!!"



And Woodchuck ran as fast as he could down the road.

"I have a good idea," said Skunk.

"What is it?" asked Rabbit.

"Let's go to our friend Woodchuck's house for some treats," said Skunk. "I'm sure he will be at home."

Rabbit opened the door very slowly.

He peeked out.

No one was there.

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